

Westport Youth Commission General Meeting Minutes
October 15, 2020

7:16 We have a quorum, Kevin gives logistical info about the meeting

7:17 Sarah begins

7:18 Lily Weisz makes a motion to approve the minutes

7:18 Abe Rubin seconds that motion

7:19 What's up

- First staples players radio show is coming up
- Zoom fatigue from various activities
 - Abe has not read his AP Literature book, Sarah is forced to leave
 - Time is wasted trying to set up zoom (lily), tech hiccups
- New hobbies?
 - College writing, napping, school
- Volleyball has a senior day
- Lacrosse team, conditioning outside lets people play safely
- Fencing inside with masks on
- COVID cases at Staples?
 - At the beginning of the year, one person tested positive but it was taken care of
 - If there is a case they know about they are legally obligated to tell us, none yet
 - People getting tested, haven't tested positive
- Halloween in Westport?
 - State guidance at the very least is advising against trick-or-treating, stay away from large gatherings.
 - Halloween car parades

7:29 Kevin gives the youth services report

- Deirdre Ekholdt is joining us today, new social worker in the Department of Human Services who will be working with all ages.
- Matt Geeza, the teen services librarian at the Westport Library, is also joining us
- Enhancement grant for the youth commission programs and activities (approx. \$3500) - T-shirt sizes for those who are new
- Toquet Hall has a bunch of safety supplies that arrived, hoping to safely reopen at reduced capacity within the next month or so, however, waiting on guidance.
- Westport together, a program for parents, is coming Tuesday at 7:00, talking about COVID virtual fatigue, isolation, etc.

7:34 Advocacy group status

Peer Education:

- Looking to standardize a meeting date (second Tuesday after each general). Spoke and voted about a good meeting. Decided on doing an iMessage group chat. Only for general reminders and meeting dates, and not to work on projects.

- Has to be virtually, but needs to be more interactive than a normal zoom call, q & a session. Could police, as first responders, interact with the youth in a physical manner?
- Q & A is preferred (Ashley)
- Coffee chat with a cop, you could ask anything you want and get good feedback.
- Giving people distinct goals so everyone can work on their own thing and help each other out in the advocacy meeting
- The other big project is the mini mentor program. PSA type informational videos about online safety. Fits perfectly with the virtual world we live in.

7:48 Town Improvements

- Not doing regularly scheduled meetings, make sure we can communicate with you
- **Student Discounts:** Compiling a list of all businesses that would want to be in the program. At the next meeting, we will be drafting an email to the chamber of commerce about what we plan to do with the discounts.
- **Mini Golf:** Looking to have a meeting late next week or early the week after in order to modernize and become comfortable with the presentation
- **Open Campus:** First meeting happened, continuing with research of towns around us to understand how to approach revitalizing the previous plan

7:57 Needs assessment survey

- Sent the survey to Elaine, who reviewed it, added suggestions, and now need the First Selectman's review and "ok" to follow through with the distribution plan
- Keep your eyes and ears open for any pressing issues that are worth bringing up to the commission

8:03 Rachel made a motion to adjourn

8:03 Eli Seconded the motion to adjourn

- Everyone supported the motion except for Lily, who abstained.